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Agee fights CIA plot to deport him to U.S.

~~Agee, Philip~~
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~~P- Seeger, Murray~~

(orig under
Agee)

Former CIA agent Philip Agee has charged that the CIA is behind current efforts to deport him from England.

The author of "Inside the Company" stated recently that the agency is still seeking revenge for his revelations about the CIA. If returned to the U.S., Agee faces possible criminal charges for revealing classified information.

Agee was notified two months ago by British Home Secretary Merlyn Rees of the government's intention to deport him on the general grounds that Agee had allegedly engaged in activities "harmful to the security of the United Kingdom." Agee, who has lived in Britain since 1972, appeared before a 3-man government tribunal Jan. 11. The tribunal will review the charges against him and recommend action.

Rees has consistently refused to elaborate on the allegations against Agee and Mark Hosenball, another U.S. citizen in England facing deportation. Agee says he has learned through friendly sources the motives for Rees' move against him.

Rees recently told a political colleague, Agee says, that the British government wants the former spy out of the country "because he [Agee] betrayed two of our men behind the Iron Curtain."

The reference, Agee explains, is to a CIA-initiated smear linking the former agent to the exposure of a NATO spy ring operating in Poland.

The basis for Agee's supposed connection

with the exposure was a story filed last January by the Los Angeles Times' Bonn correspondent. Although the article was never published it provided background information for a story appearing in a London paper. That story said Agee had passed along the names of NATO agents to the Soviet KGB (secret police) during a 1971 visit to Cuba.

The Times reporter, who cited "qualified Western sources" in his article, charged that Agee had named international fencing champion Jerzy Pawlowski as head of the NATO Polish operation. Pawlowski, a 1968 Olympics gold medalist, has since been sentenced to 25 years in prison after reportedly confessing to espionage activities.

The Times writer's story contends that Agee met Pawlowski in Mexico City during the 1968 Olympics when Agee was assigned to the games as a CIA agent. Rees apparently accepts the story's view of Agee's role. The home secretary is therefore blaming him for the arrest last year of some 125 persons in Poland on spying charges, apparently including two Polish nationals working for England.

Agee denies ever having met Pawlowski and says he was not involved in the break-up of the NATO spy ring. Noting that the CIA had previously accused him of causing the assassination of CIA agent Richard Welch in Athens in 1975, Agee maintains that his former employers are still seeking to get back at him for his exposure of agency activities.

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